

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Shin Shin Foods, Inc.

Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Lean Increases Capacity and Jobs at Shin Shin Foods

Client Profile:

Shin Shin Foods, Inc., located in Portland, Oregon, manufactures a variety of premium quality Asian noodles, wraps, hummus, salsas, granola and refrigerated gourmet pizzas sold throughout the Pacific Northwest. The company was founded in 1986 and employs 26 people.

Situation:

Shin Shin Foods decided to work with the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership (OMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to help them grow their business, and build a company structure to support stronger financial performance with a minimal capital outlay. The company was only utilizing 35 percent of its available capacity and wanted to increase capacity utilization by increasing sales. Shin Shin Foods also wanted to meet and exceed all regulatory requirements for personnel safety and food safety.

Solution:

OMEP began with a Lean Enterprise Best Practices Assessment of the operation followed by a Value Stream Mapping (VSM) of the current state to identify system constraints. Relationships were built with other food processors that needed outsourced contract manufacturing capacity resulting in increased sales and capacity utilization for Shin Shin Foods. Plant layout was reviewed and arranged for optimal flow and equipment specified and sourced to help reduce and eliminate constraints. OMEP helped the company perform an employee safety audit and assisted in improving the safety program to meet and exceed OR-OSHA requirements. A food safety and quality systems study of the Shin Shin Foods facility identified which prerequisite programs were required for the company to exceed regulatory requirements and pursue new business. OMEP worked with the company to develop a current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) program, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) program, and conducted a facility sanitation pre-audit inspection to ready the company for third party food safety audits. The company achieved Organic certification during this period.

Results:

- * Increased sales by \$275,000.
- * Retained sales of \$1.3 million.
- * Reduced costs by \$40,000.
- * Invested \$30,000 in workforce training.
- * Invested \$9,000 in new equipment.
- * Created 7 jobs.
- * Retained 19 jobs.

Testimonial:

www.mep.nist.gov



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"The Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership has helped us grow our company and add jobs by coaching us to think Lean, improve and leverage our process and food safety program for new business, reduce inventory levels, and connect us with other food processors in the area that have ongoing Lean implementations. Our OMEP consultant, Bill Paugh, has an extensive food industry background and knowledge, which coupled with Lean, is a powerful combination for our company."

Mychael Mai, Owner and President